



Save the Children

**ENGINE: Empowering New Generations to
Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities**
A project supported by the US Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives

Year III Quarterly Progress Report (Quarter III)

April 1, 2014 – June 31, 2014



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Acronyms

ACoE	Academic Center of Excellence
AEWs	Agriculture Extension Workers
AGP	Agriculture Growth Program
AMde	Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia
ANC	Antenatal Care
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ATVET	Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CBM	Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CC	Community Conversation
CCAs	Community Change Agents
CF	Combined feeding
CHDs	Child Health Days
CIAFS	Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security
CoE	Center of excellence
COP	Chief of Party
DAs	Development Agents
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DRMFSS	Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector
DZARC	Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center
EB	Experimental Biology
EBF	Exclusive breastfeeding
ECCs	Enhanced Community Conversations
EHNR	Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
EIAR	Ethiopia Institute of Agricultural Research
EMRDA	Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
EOC-DICAC	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission
EOTC-DICAC	Ethiopia Tsehado Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
ETF	Emergency Task Force
ETS	Effective Teaching Skills Training
FANTA-3	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBP	Food by Prescription
FCD	Food-cooking demonstrations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FIDO	Fayya Integrated Development Organization
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMHACA	Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Agency
FRI	Farm Radio International
FTC	Farmer training center
FtF	Feed the Future
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
HC	Health Center

HEWs	Health Extension Workers
HF	Health Facilities
HH	Household
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HP	Health Post
HWs	Health Workers
iCCM	Integrated Community-based Case Management
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation
IFHP	Integrated Family Health Program
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness
IRB	Institutional Review Board
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JHU-CCP	Johns Hopkins University-Center for Communication Programs
JSS	Joint Supervision Visits
JU	Jimma University
LES	Livelihood and economic opportunities
LNGOs	Local Non-Governmental Organizations
LOE	Level of effort
LOL	Land O' Lakes, Inc.
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIYCN	Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MASHAV	Israeli Agency for International Development Cooperation
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MOI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSG	Mothers Support Group
MVHHs	Most Vulnerable Households
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
NFFSC	National Food Fortification Steering Committee
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordinating Body
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee
NNTWG	National Nutrition Technical Working Group
NSA	Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OR	Operational Research
ORS	Oral Rehydration Salts
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PI	Principal Investigator
PPR	Peste des petits ruminants disease
PSE	Pre-service Education
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program

QI	Quality Improvement
RDQA	Routine Data Quality Assessment
RFP	Request for Proposal
RNCBs	Regional Nutrition Coordinating Bodies
RNTCs	Regional Nutrition Technical Committees
RPSN	Rural Productive Safety Net
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SBM-R	Standards-Based Management and Recognition
SC	Save the Children
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
SOW	Scope of Work
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
TU	Tufts University
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
VAT	Value Added Tax
VESAs	Village Economic and Social Association
VI	Valid International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
ZC	Zonal Coordinators

Executive summary

Project overview

Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (ENGINE) is USAID's flagship integrated nutrition program, which aims to improve nutritional status of Ethiopian women and children under-five. The primary objective of this five year (2011-2016) program is to prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from conception until the child is two years old, through social and behavior change communication (SBCC). ENGINE seeks to build capacity for and institutionalize nutrition programs and policies; improve the quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services; prevent undernutrition through improved community-based nutrition care practices; and advance a rigorous and innovative learning agenda by implementing sustainable, comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based interventions including establishing linkages to livelihoods and economic opportunities.

Save the Children (SC) forwards the implementation of ENGINE through a strong multi-sectoral platform driven by evidence-based direct nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions, that support existing government structures and synergistic partnerships with other USAID-funded projects. ENGINE has implemented its integrated nutrition package to 83 Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) (food secure) *woredas* and is currently accelerating expansion to reach 17 non-AGP (food insecure) *woredas*.

SC effectively manages the integrated nutrition project interventions and activities through a consortium that includes: Jhpiego, Tufts University, Valid International (VI), Land O'Lakes (LOL), The Manoff Group and Jimma University. During the reporting period, ENGINE finalized the sub-grant agreement with three local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs) to implement its innovative ECC approach.

Achievements and successes

ENGINE made significant progress toward reaching its objectives in Year III covering the period from April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014.

Nutrition multi-sector coordination and partnership

In Quarter III, ENGINE provided technical support in the preparation of a comprehensive report to the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) secretary. This report was shared at the NNTC meeting held on June 12, 2014 at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH). In addition, FMOH, UNICEF and ENGINE partnered to organize three-day workshop to build the capacity of NNTC from the nine sectors (Agriculture, Education, Health, Trade, Industry, MOFED, Water & Energy, FMHACA, and EPHI). In response to NNCB request for UNICEF, USAID, and ENGINE support the multi-sector coordination of the NNP and its regional roll-out at regional, zonal, and levels; ENGINE facilitated the establishment of *woreda* level multi-sectoral coordination in 15 *woredas* in Amhara, 15 in Oromia, and three in SNNPR.

ENGINE, in partnership with Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (CIAFS) provided leadership for nutrition security training to 50 leaders from Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the standing committee of agriculture of the parliament. Additionally in Quarter III, ENGINE through its local partner Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) made an oral presentation of its nutrition

policy research entitled “Evaluation of the dynamics of national nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia” at the global micronutrient forum.

Nutrition pre-service education (PSE)

ENGINE continues to work to strengthen the quality of PSE institutions in order to achieve the desired and agreed upon standards in nutrition education using the Standard-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) methodology. During the reporting period, the 12 project-supported institutions conducted a third internal assessment to monitor their progress against the performance standards. Highlights of this progress include: three out of four ATVET institutions established an education quality assurance office at their respective institutions; instructors have incorporated variety of interactive learning approaches such as role play, case studies, and small discussion groups; and the SBM-R tool is being used to leverage the new teaching aids (books, skills lab materials, audio-visuals) from other sources in many of the health science institutions. In addition, ENGINE provided six three-day supportive supervisions visits to six PSE institutions, providing on-site TA for the implementation of nutrition PSE strengthening activities during the reporting period.

Capacity building

ENGINE trained 1313 (708 female) health and agricultural workers in nutrition. The project provided training on MIYCN for 512 HWs (368 female) participants from all four regions to build their capacity to provide quality nutrition services. In building the local capacity of HEWs in nutrition-specific interventions, ENGINE provided demand-based integrated refreshment training (IRT) in collaboration with government counterparts for 90 HEWs in Oromia and Amhara regions. ENGINE trained 144 development agents/agriculture extension workers (DAs/AEWs), (22 female) in NSA training to integrate nutrition into agriculture to advance their capacity and provide them with tools to promote NSA. Additionally, ENGINE trained 99 MSG members in Oromia and SNNPR Regions to improve members’ knowledge and skills on nutrition counselling in the context of HIV/AIDS. As a result of ENGINE’s capacity building activities, HWs counselled 55230 pregnant women and 28859 lactating mothers on exclusive (EBF), complementary feeding (CF), and dietary diversity at HCs and HPs. At the facility level, 24753 children suffering from diarrhoea were treated with zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS) and 35,858 pregnant women were supplemented with iron-folate.

Nutrition sensitive livelihoods

ENGINE supported 4,396 most vulnerable households (MVHHs) mainly women with improved homestead production, and 2,275 with small livestock (poultry, shoats, and heifer). ENGINE trained 1,401 MVHs on the support they received, gender, nutrition, and environmental issues. ENGINE also established 100 new saving groups, of which 70 were linked to microfinance institutions.

Social and behavior change communication (SBCC) strategy

During this reporting period, ENGINE’s revised its SBCC strategy reflecting the findings from the formative research. Based on the findings of the completed concept testing, ENGINE dedicated its efforts to the development and in-house design of innovative nutrition SBCC materials for Enhance Community Conversations (ECC). With regard to launching the innovative mNutrition service to improve tools for health and agriculture workers, ENGINE procured the required equipment and the preliminary menu options, nutrition information (for SMS text), and nutrition audio messages in English and Amharic were drafted.

Nutrition policy research

In Quarter III, the nutrition policy research report entitled “*An examination of the dynamics of nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia: Facilitators and Constraints at National and Sub-national level*” was finalized and the findings of the overall nutrition policy research were orally presented at the Micronutrient Forum Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mid-term evaluation

In this quarter, ENGINE successfully completed the internal mid-term evaluation as planned. A draft report of the internal evaluation was finalized and shared to the external evaluators. ENGINE also provided all the necessary information, support, and feedback to USAID’s external mid-term evaluators. Both evaluations were amazed by the performance of the project and concluded that ENGINE is on track on the most part of its components. They also recommended where the project should improve or speed up its implementation.

Reporting period

This is the ENGINE project's **Year III Quarter III Report** covering the reporting period from **April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014.**

Publication/reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period? *(Copies of final reports available upon request)*

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ If yes, please list below:

Title	Author	Date
Water, hygiene and sanitation (wash) in rural households, SBCC programming in Amhara, Oromia, NNP, and Tigray	ENGINE in collaboration with The Manoff group	June 2014
Formative Research Reports: Maternal Diet and Nutrition Practices and their Determinants: Formative Research Findings and Recommendations for SBCC Programming in Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions (Final Draft) Fathers' IYCF Practices (Final Draft) Mothers' IYCF practices in Amhara and Oromia (Final Draft)	The Manoff Group with ENGINE input	April 2014 May 2014
Factors associated with stunting in Ethiopian children under five	Tufts University with ENGINE input	April 2014
An examination of the dynamics of nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia: Facilitators and Constraints at National and Sub-national level	ENGINE	June 2014
ENGINE Impact Evaluation Study-Results of Baseline Survey	Save the Children with Valid International	April 2014
Rearing Dairy Cattle Training manual and Facilitators Guide	ENGINE	April 2014

Technical assistance (TA)

Did your organization utilize short-term TA during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ Please list below:

If yes, please attach an electronic copy of the TA report as part of your submission.

TA Consultants

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of TA provided
Ian Moise	14 May 2014	24 May 2014	SC-USA	Provided technical assistance to develop an implementation plan for WASH programing.
Meghan Loraditch	01 June 2014	14 June 2014	Tufts University, Boston, USA	Met with Ag-Nut team to discuss preparations for the second round Ag-Nut survey and to follow-up on progress of the Birth Cohort study.
Joy Del Rossa	03 May 2014	21 May 2014	SC-USA	Supported the ENGINE project internal midterm assessment.
Mara Russell	10 May 2014	25 May 2014	Land O'Lakes	Addressed issues in the data set and complete the Livelihood Effectiveness Study report.
Brenda Burrell	01 June 2014	06 June 2014	The Manoff Group INC.	Trained key Save the Children ENGINE staff (Addis Ababa office) in the use of Freedom Fone v2S7. The software will be used to provide information to extension workers as part of ENGINE's mNutrition program.
Lydia Clemmons	06 May 2014	16 May 2014	The Manoff Group INC.	Supported ENGINE's local SBCC team and creative agency on the development of multi-media SBCC materials. Contributed to fast-tracking the planning for the mNutrition program for frontline workers.

Travel and visits

Did your organization support international travel during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☒

Yes ☐

All international travel to conferences, workshops, trainings, HQ or meetings

Name	Destination	Departure from Ethiopia	Arrival in Ethiopia	Host Organization	Purpose of the travel

Field monitoring and supervision visits

Have any program **monitoring visits/supervisions** been made during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒ Please list below:

Description of Monitoring Team	Start Date	End Date	Sites Visited	Written recommendations provided
Health and Nutrition	07 April	11 April	Dejen Enemay, Debreely as of Amhara, Hidabu Abote, Girar jarso and Yayagulele of Oromia	Ensure proper recording of the counselled mothers and care givers. Consider including cooking demonstration in the checklist during supervision and confirm if it is being implemented in the HH.
	29 May	01 June	Tarmaber , Kewot, Antsokeya Gemza, Efratana Gidim of Amhara region	In order to make the nutrition counselling sustainable and government owned, move for it to be recorded in the log book. Suggested orienting the remaining staff just after the training to overcome the trained staff turnover. Recommended using the HAD for mobilization of cooking demonstration to generate community ownership.
WASH Team	15 May	16 May	Woliso and its environs	Advised the management to plan for WASH training.
FtF Joint Monitoring Team				
Gender cross-cutting teams (M&E, LES)				
Livelihood and Economic Strengthening (LES)	28 April	08 May	Jabitena, Bure, Guangua, Dangla, Takusa, Metema, and Kuara	Climate consideration of the areas should be considered with respected to the distribution of vegetable seeds to MVHHs and institutions should consider the climatic conditions of the areas.
	20 May	24 May	Woliso, Lemuna Bilbilu, Gorche, and Malga	Advised HHs on how to apply proper apple growing management practices for better crop stands and productions. Recommended holding a training on apple management for DAs and Zonal coordinators and is now going to be conducted end of July.
	25 June	04 July	Lemuna Bilbilu, Dodola, Malga, Woliso and Yem Sp.	Suggested seed supply strategy could be through the following options. i) cooperative unions ii) private vendors

	28 May	01 June	Tarma ber, Kewot, Ephratanagidim, Antsokiagemza	The partnership with Tarmaber is a model which should be extrapolated to the other <i>woredas</i> .
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	06 April	16 April	Gomma, Welisso and Tiro Afeta	Conducted on-site follow up of interviews and spot checks of documentations. Provided timely feed back to the enumerators.
	07 May	14 May	Gomma, Welisso and Tiro Afeta	Assessed how data is collected and provide solutions for observed challenges.
	28 May	31 May	Jimma and Tiro Afeta	Discussed with team on resolving the challenge of matching of ENGINE PhD students with PhD advisor. Recommendation to have Prof Carl as an official PhD for the unmatched PhD students
	01 June	04 June	Jimma Dedo	Provided technical support and to ensure quality data collection of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) study, and fixed data entry problems encountered

Accomplishments and successes during the reporting period

Project management

Staff recruitment

During this reporting period, after serving two years, the Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) resigned from the project as of July 30, 2014 to take a Chief of Party (COP) position of a nutrition project in another country. Save the Children recruited a new DCOP who will start working in mid-August. Otherwise, ENGINE retained all key personnel positions.

Sub-grantee management

ENGINE continued its regular monthly meeting with ENGINE's Agreement Officer Representative (AOR). ENGINE also continued its regular bi-weekly staff meetings to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year III work plans. ENGINE also met individually with sub-primes to resolve any outstanding issues to achieve optimal project performance. In addition, ENGINE conducted a review meeting with all the sub-primes to provide technical updates and discuss.

In this quarter, ENGINE also finalized the sub-grant agreement with three local NGOs to implement its innovative Enhanced Community Conversation (ECC) in 20 *woredas* of the four regions. They are as follows: 1) Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) for Eastern Oromia, 2) Fayya Integrated Development Organization (FIDO), and 3) Ethiopia Twehado Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC) for Amhara, Tigray, and SNNPR.

Technical assistance

In Quarter III, SC brought on board Valid International (VI) to continue its international TA for ENGINE's operational researches on acute malnutrition and end-line survey of impact evaluation. USAID approved VI's international TA budget and scope of work and VI has re-initiated its work in this quarter.

During the reporting period, ENGINE received TA from The Manoff Group in moving forward the SBCC activities including mNutrition, and finalizing WASH observational assessment report; SC-US in designing WASH detail implementation plan and conducting internal mid-term evaluation; and Tufts University (TU) in conducting PIA study and Land O'Lakes in conducting the livelihood effectiveness study (LES) (Annex I).

Start-up activities in non-AGP

ENGINE, in consultation with Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) and GOAL, proposed 17 non-AGP *woredas* to USAID and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), which were accepted in Year II. During the reporting period, ENGINE incorporated the joint plan into its regional offices Year III DIP. However, GRAD raised a concern regarding the work load of this partnership on the already busy community facilitators and VESAs and the need for additional budget. USAID, ENGINE and GRAD had several meetings to resolve the issue. In the end, USAID approved providing the requested budget and the joint plan was revised and approved by USAID. However, this delayed the planned roll out in Quarter III. The implementation

will start in the fourth quarter in two in Amhara (Libo Kemkem and Lay Gaint) and two *woredas* in Oromia (Arsi Negele and Adami Tulu).

In Quarter III, GOAL and ENGINE in consultation with USAID agreed to start the partnership for one year in Eastern Oromia. The preparatory phase is completed and the roll out will start in six during Quarter IV.

Partnership and multi-sector coordination

During the reporting period, ENGINE, as the chair of Feed the Future (FtF) nutrition technical working group (TWG) facilitated one TWG meeting on May 13. GRAD presented its baseline findings and the partners were briefed about ENGINE's and other FtF partners' external mid-term evaluation by USAID. It was communicated to the members that the next main FtF quarterly meeting in September or October will be on nutrition. The working group proposed SBCC or good community practices of project over the last two years to be the theme. Integrated Family Health Program (IFHP) and African Alliance for Improved Food Processing (AAIFP) joined the TWG for the first time.

ENGINE, in partnership with Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security (CIAFS) provided two-day leadership for nutrition security training to 50 leaders (10 women) from different directorates of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the standing committee of agriculture of the parliament in June 21-22. The purpose of the training was to inspire, energize, and mobilize innovative leaders, champions, change agents, and strategic thinkers in Ethiopia to achieving nutrition security. ENGINE facilitated the nutrition module. There was resistance from some of the participants to accept the high stunting rate in productive *woredas* and most had a hard time shifting their mind set from agricultural productivity and poverty reduction as adequate measures to ensure nutrition security. In addition to the training, there is a need to follow up with the trainees at their work place. CIAFS and ENGINE will follow up in the next quarter.

H.E. W/ro Almaz Mesele deputy head of agriculture standing committee from house of representative in her closing remark said that, *"This training gave her clue on what nutrition is and how it is affecting all of us starting from the household. Undernutrition is a problem in our country and we should do something."*



Figure 1. Deputy Head of Agriculture giving closing remarks

In addition, NNCB requested that UNICEF, USAID and ENGINE support the multi-sector coordination of the NNP and its regional roll-out at regional, zonal, and levels. In Quarter III, ENGINE and UNICEF partnered to undertake capacity building training to National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) from nine sectors and supported the launch of NNP in SNNPR.

IR I: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

Planned activities

- Support nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms
- Support national level food fortification, micronutrient survey
- Implement quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education
- Continue the process of establishing nutrition academic center of excellence (ACoE)

IR I.1: Strengthened policy environment

Strategy I.1.1: Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination

Support national nutrition multi-sector coordination

In Quarter III, ENGINE provided technical support in the preparation of a comprehensive report to the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) secretary. This report was shared at the NNTC meeting held on June 12, 2014 at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH). The key action items from this meeting include developing a comprehensive annual report for the NNTC and the National Nutrition Coordinating Body (NNCB); preparing an annual multi-sectoral nutrition coordination plan for 2007 EFY; and finalizing the multi-sectoral National Nutrition Plan (NNP) implementation guideline. These documents are expected to be submitted for approval prior to the next NNCB meeting, which will be held in August 2014.

FMOH, UNICEF and ENGINE partnered to organize three-day workshop on April 1-3, 2014 to build the capacity of NNTC from the nine sectors (Agriculture, Education, Health, Trade, Industry, MOFED, Water & Energy, FMHACA, and EPHI). The objective was to strengthen the capacities of the members of NNTC and to promote common understanding of nutrition among the sectors at the federal level. ENGINE facilitated the sessions on multi-sectoral collaboration and role of each sectors for nutrition; presented nutrition situation in Ethiopia: national, regional, and *woredas* level using its baseline survey findings; and highlighted the experience of ENGINE working with three sectors: Agriculture, Health, and Education. It was well received by the participants and each member prepared a work plan and submitted to FMOH.

Support regional nutrition multi-sector coordination

During this reporting period, SNNPR launched the NNP in the presence of three vice-presidents of the region and representatives from all sectors and zones and *woredas*. ENGINE provided technical and financial support to for the launch the SNNP Regional Health Bureau in the preparation for NNP regional dissemination workshop and establishment of the Regional Nutrition Coordination Body (RNCB). ENGINE's COP & Regional Coordinator participated in the NNP regional dissemination workshop held on June 1, 2014 in Hawassa, SNNPR. ENGINE provided technical and financial support to roll out NNP launch in 4 in Amhara, 10 zones in Oromia and one zone in SNNPR and one zone in Tigray. ENGINE also facilitated the establishment of level multi-sectoral coordination in 15 *woredas* in Amhara, 15 in Oromia, and three in SNNPR. The performance of SNNPR is low because the regional launch was conducted in late June for reasons explained in Semi-Annual Report.

Strategy I.1.2 Support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards

Address gaps in existing nutrition-related policies and guidelines

Blended integrated nutrition module for health workers

During the second quarter, the integrated nutrition module on micronutrient supplementation; Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN); management of acute malnutrition; nutrition and communicable and non-communicable-related diseases were finalized and submitted to FMOH for review and approval. It is still in the hands of the FMOH for final approval.

National food fortification plan of action

During the third quarter, ENGINE prepared two TORs on food fortification on behalf of the National Food Fortification Steering Committee (NFFSC) and nutrition program management for the National Nutrition Technical Working Group (NNTWG). The draft TORs were submitted to National Nutrition case team coordinator for circulation to the NNTC, FMOH and MOI for feedback. Subsequently, both TORs will be shared with the NNTWG and NFFSC members for additional input prior to submitting to the NNCB for approval. ENGINE also assisted FMOH by reviewing the 'Next Generation PSNP / Rural Productive Safety Net (RPSN)' design document to ensure nutrition-sensitivity with emphasis on Pregnant and Lactating Women was reflected in the document.

Support national micronutrient survey

In Year II, ENGINE committed funds to support the survey and to provide technical assistance in developing the survey tools. During first and second quarter, EPHI executed an assessment of iodized salt consumption at the national level. During this quarter, the survey findings were presented in global micronutrient forum conference held in Addis Ababa on June 2-6, 2014. The remaining micronutrient (vitamin A, iron and zinc, and iodine) surveys are expected to be conducted in late 2014 and early 2015.

Micronutrient forum

In this reporting period, the global third micronutrient forum was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from June 2-6, 2014. ENGINE provided financial support for local conference participants and presenters from regional health bureaus, universities, research institute, and other partners. As part of its knowledge management and sharing, ENGINE through its local partner Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) made an oral presentation of its nutrition policy research entitled "Evaluation of the dynamics of national nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia" and three poster presentations on nutrition MSc papers supported by the project. ENGINE also displayed its nutrition-related resources at the conference booth to facilitate program learning and highlight the achievements of the project to the local and global participants. A total of 200 participants visited the booth.

In the first quarter, the FMOH took the lead in establishing a central nutrition database. ENGINE, as a member of the working group, contributed to the preparation of the TOR for the sub-group and implementation process as well as the identification of key indicators to be included in the database. In Quarter III, FMOH called another partners meeting in which ENGINE participated and contributed to the revision and finalization of indicators to be included in the data collection checklist. As an outcome of the meeting, it was suggested that FMOH draft data reporting mechanism from facilities up to the FMOH. This will be discussed in the next meeting to be called by FMOH in Quarter IV.

IR 1.2: Strengthened pre-service and in-service nutrition training for health care agents

Strategy 1.2.1: Pre-service education (PSE) for health care providers and agriculture agents strengthened

Implement quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education

ENGINE continues to work to strengthen the quality of PSE institutions in order to achieve the desired and agreed upon standards in nutrition education using the Standard-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) methodology to monitor the quality of nutrition education in five areas – classroom instruction, clinical practice, student assessment (e.g., exams), infrastructure (e.g., nutrition labs), and management..

In the reporting period, the 12 project-supported institutions conducted a third internal assessment to monitor their progress against the performance standards set forth during the Module II workshop, which was held during Quarters I and II of Year III. This progress was shared at the Module III workshop, which discussed sustainable strategies for embedding continuous quality improvement for nutrition education into the institutions. The workshop held on May 15-16, 2014 and was attended by a total of 39 participants (five females) comprised of deans/vice deans, SBM-R focal persons and instructors.

Specific SBM-R achievements documented over the reporting period include the following:

- Three out of four ATVET institutions established an education quality assurance office at their respective institutions.
- Instructors have incorporated variety of interactive learning approaches such as role play, case studies, and small discussion groups.
- Skills building sessions for students are structured to ensure students are able to deliver quality nutrition and related services such as providing nutrition education and counselling or preparing therapeutic and complementary feeding.
- Skills assessments utilizing the latest assessment techniques such as direct observation with a checklist, objective-structured practical examinations, and using logbooks/yellow books have become common practice in laboratories and practicum settings. These exercises have notably improved the number of students passing the COC exams in Bahir Dar Health Science College from below 50 percent to over 90 percent on first attempt.
- SBM-R tool is being used to leverage the new teaching aids (books, skills lab materials, audio-visuals) from other sources in many of the health science institutions
- Improving quality and performance (SBM-R) is now a standing agenda item at department and academic committee meetings and also in the one to five organizational teams of the institutions.

The SBM-R workshop also highlighted progress the institutions achieved over the last two and half years, which was used as an input for ENGINE's internal midterm review.

In addition, ENGINE provided six three-day supportive supervisions visits to six PSE institutions, providing on-site TA for the implementation of nutrition PSE strengthening activities during the

reporting period. Classroom teaching and assessment, skills lab corners for nutrition, SBM-R team building, and institutional management were the main areas covered by supportive supervision. As a result, the institutions reviewed their action plan to reflect the inclusion of activities aimed at institutionalizing and scaling up the SBM-R process as well as making any necessary modifications to timelines.

Organize nutrition forums for health and agriculture graduates

In Quarter III, ENGINE conducted nutrition forums for 2599 (937 female) graduating students and faculties at the 12 Pre-service Education (PSE) institutions. The workshops focused on gender and nutrition; the national/regional magnitude and consequences of malnutrition; and the role of graduates in implementation of NNP. Alage and Wolaita Sodo instructors successfully promoted the event, which contributed to exceeding the annual target. The forums enabled graduates to understand key nutrition challenges and the need to advocate for multi-sector coordination at all levels and across sectors.

Strengthen nutrition curriculum at project-supported institutions

During the third quarter, ENGINE conducted a content integration workshop at Hawassa University. The workshop assessed current progress against integrating the core competencies for nutrition into the undergraduate nutritionists' curriculum. A total of five courses underwent content integration, in addition to the previous seven courses, bringing the total number of revised courses for undergraduate nutritionists to 12.

Facilitate effective teaching skills training

During Quarter III, ENGINE conducted one effective teaching skills training (ETS) training for 23 (four female) university and health science college instructors from the four universities and the four health science colleges. The training aimed to ensure uniformity in the coursework delivery of newly recruited instructors. The six day training helps empower instructors with the knowledge to effectively educate others on the nutrition core competencies, which contributes to continuous quality improvement at their respective institutions.

Continue to establish academic center of excellence (ACoE) for nutrition

As part of the process to establish an ACoE for nutrition education, ENGINE continued working closely with Hawassa University. Ensuring basic facilities standards are met is essential to establishing Hawassa University as an ACoE for nutrition. Over the third quarter, the School of Human Nutrition and Food Science demonstrated its commitment by renovating skills laboratories so that quality nutrition and food science teaching and research will be done by the ACoE. The renovations include: maintaining waterlines and electricity; replacing old laboratory benches and stools with new ones; adding more laboratory cabinets; and replacing older desktops with new ones utilizing existing funds from other sources. The main challenge is the procurement of the laboratory and other supplies for the ACoE. ENGINE should have procured through Jhepigo, but the procurement was delayed. As a result, SC has been pushing Jhepigo to speed up the procurement.

IR 2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

Planned activities:

- Implement QI model to improve quality of nutritional services
- Promote coaching/mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers
- Build capacity of frontline health and agriculture workers to provide high quality services
- Improve tools for frontline health and agriculture workers
- Implement LINGO-led enhanced community conversations (ECCs)
- Strengthen referral systems and link nutrition with other programs
- Support target in Child Health Day (CHD) implementation

Strategy 2.1.1 Facilitate the integration of quality improvement process with GoE coordination entities

Implement QI model to improve the quality of nutrition services

In Quarter III, ENGINE pre-tested the nutrition quality improvement tool in four health facilities. The final version of the tool was finalized based on the pre-test findings. During the reporting period, Facilitators and Participants Manuals for Quality of Nutrition Services Improvement were developed. In addition, the quality improvement TOR was finalized. Subsequently, ENGINE's quality improvement work plan was revised and 10 health centers (HCs) and 43 health posts (HPs) in 10 *woredas* were selected to pilot the model.

Promote coaching/mentoring and supportive supervision for health service providers

During the reporting period, ENGINE teams in all four regions trained 273 HWs (42 female) on coaching and mentorship skills integrated¹ with *woreda* review meetings reaching 156 percent (273/172) against the quarterly target and 95 % (601/637) of the annual target. At the facility level, ENGINE zonal coordinators (ZCs) mentored 1234 HWs and HEWs (967 female) to improve MIYCN services reaching 123 percent (1234/911) of the target for Quarter III, but only 62% (1919/3135) of the annual target. As a result of the training and mentorship, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children started receiving MIYCN services at HCs and HPs during routine services.

Over the this reporting period, ENGINE ZCs, in collaboration with and zonal health offices, conducted first joint supervision (JSS) visits to 62 percent (534/862) of the HC and HPs and completed follow-up visits to 132 HCs and 210 HPs (Table 2.1). The supportive supervision visits aimed to improve the delivery of nutrition and health services provided by HWs and HEWs and to address challenges faced by frontline HWs. The team used checklists for the assessment and provided on-site feedback and developed action plans based on the findings. Table 2.1 presents the number of health facilities reached through JSS only. A total of 1234 HWs and HEWs were reached through mentorship by the regional teams during Quarter III. The lower achievement was due to

¹ Coaching and mentoring topics is also integrated in to MIYCN training. This number does not include the number of participants trained through MIYCN integration to avoid double counting.

competing priorities of the *woreda* and regional officials as well as a logistic shortage to cover other new activities of the project like WASH, SBCC, and QI.

Table 2.1: Total number of HFs reached through joint supportive supervision by types of facility and first and follow up visits

Category by HFs and visits	Planned	Total Reached	%
HCS-First visit	51	43	84
HCS-Follow up	145	132	91
HPs-First visit	433	167	39
HPs-Follow up	233	192	82
HC and HP(First visit)	484	210	43
HC and HP(Follow up)	378	324	86
Total	862	534	62

During the third quarter, continued improvements were observed at HFs regarding availability of job aids and quality of MIYCN counseling services (Table 2.2). Nutrition corners were observed in 75 percent of the supervised facilities (Amhara). Improved participation in food cooking demonstrations (FCD) and counseling helped the target groups to improve MIYCN knowledge and optimal practices. HFs also integrated nutrition into their regular plans and started reporting on activities to their respective offices on a monthly basis. As the HH visits involved HEWs, the supervision team used them as an opportunity to mentor HEWs and to provide on-the-spot feedback on optimal MIYCN and WASH practices. The team also provided feedback to the primary health care unit heads and respective officials. As a way forward, ENGINE regional teams will address the gaps identified above with their regional, zonal and counterparts in Quarter IV.

Table 2.2: Summary of joint supportive supervision findings

Improvements	Existing Gaps	Actions Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved availability of job aids Service providers checked for availability of iodized salt and availability of micronutrient in at the entry point Health facilities integrated nutrition report into their regular plan and started reporting to their respective <i>woreda</i> offices on monthly basis.(SNNPR) Nutrition corner started in 75% of the supervised facilities (Amhara) Improved cooking demonstration events in most of the <i>kebeles</i> (Amhara) Improvement in the awareness and knowledge level of HHs on recommended maternal and child feeding practice observed Improved MIYCN performance in terms of counselling services and using of aids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening for nutrition was not given attention during service delivery Poor focus on food diversification and WASH during counselling. Vitamin A supplements and deworming are not provided routinely per the IMNCL protocol Supply shortage in some HFs; gaps in iron-folate and zinc (SNNPR, Ambo, Amhara) Poor data quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional team discussed with regional, zonal and health offices; identified supply chain gaps and supported the distribution of micronutrients to respective facilities where the gaps were observed. Zinc tablets are currently being distributed Some facilities started using health care financing to cope up with iron shortage Health workers were mentored on how to provide quality nutrition service including counselling on food diversification Discussed with the HEWs to provide vitamin A and deworming routinely On spot technical support was offered to HEWs regarding data management including recording and documentation.

Strategy 2.1.2: Build the capacity of health facility staff and frontline workers to provide high quality services

Conduct assessment of MIYCN training (post training follow-up)

Over the past three months, ENGINE conducted MIYCN post training follow-up for 344 HWs (98 female) in the four regions to ensure the trained HWs implemented the action plans developed during the ENGINE-supported MIYCN training and to monitor MIYCN integration into health facility systems. The regional team observed improvement in integrating nutrition into HCs annual plans and nutritional counseling at antenatal (ANC), postnatal, and under five units. The trained HWs used SBCC materials appropriately and recorded key nutrition indicators for reporting. However, the follow up the team also found high turnover of trained staff at under five and ANC units and non-trained staff providing MIYCN counseling in some facilities.

Provide training to program managers and health and agriculture workers

During Quarter III, ENGINE trained 1313 health and agriculture staff (708 female) out of 2228 planned for the reporting period. The training covered the following health and nutrition topics: MIYCN, nutrition planning and management for program managers; nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS); IRT, MSG, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) (Table 2.3). The overall nutrition performance for the reporting period was 59 percent (1313/1228) against the Quarter III target. The overall achievement is low especially for Tigray because the government officials and workers had other competing priorities.

Table 2.3: Total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region, Quarter III

Region	Planned Target	Achieved				Remark
		Male	Female	Total	%	
Amhara	476	124	132	256	54	
Oromia	899	294	205	499	56	
SNNPR	530	96	311	407	77	
Tigray	210	18	20	38	18	
National	113	73	40	113	100	
Total	2228	605	708	1313	59	

A brief summary of the trainings by training component is presented below:

Provide training for health and agriculture program managers on nutrition program management

ENGINE couldn't provide nutrition for program managers training to as planned because woreda and zonal officials in health and agriculture were busy with other government priorities and government annual planning activities. It will be completed in the next quarter

Provide basic MIYCN gap-filing and on job training for HWs and HEWs

ENGINE provided training on MIYCN for 512 HWs (368 female) participants from all four regions. The objective of the training was to build capacity of HWs to provide quality nutrition services. The training was provided by ENGINE zonal coordinators and HWs, who received TOT on MIYCN through ENGINE support in the previous quarters. More than half, 53 percent (344/649), of the trainees were reached through on-the-job training.

Support Integrated Refresher Training (IRT) training

ENGINE provided demand-based integrated refreshment training in collaboration with government counterparts for 90 HEWs in Oromia and Amhara regions. The IRT training is demand based and did not progress as planned in the previous quarters.

Support training to HWs in Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)

During the third quarter, Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) training was provided to 72 health workers (58 female) in Amhara, based on government requests and need. The overall coverage for the reporting period was 124 percent (72/58). The objective of the training was to build the capacity of HWs and HEWs on basic anthropometric measurements for screening of acute malnutrition at the health center and health post level, interpretation the values, and the provision of prevention and therapeutic activities to the community.

Provide DA/AEW gap-filling training on nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA)

ENGINE trained 144 development agents/agriculture extension workers (DAs/AEWs), (22 female) in NSA training to integrate nutrition into agriculture to advance their capacity and provide them with tools to promote NSA. The achievement for this training component was 52 percent (144/275) to the Quarter III target. The achievement for this quarter reflects an improvement compared to the previous quarters, which was 30 percent, and the target was re-set from 30 to 275 to compensate for the under achievement in semi-annual period. The progress reflects the DAs/AEWs completion of the water shading campaign and seasonal agricultural activities. This progress is expected to continue to in Quarter IV.

Train mothers support group (MSG) in MIYCN

During the reporting period, ENGINE trained 99 MSG members in Oromia and SNNPR Regions to improve members' knowledge and skills on nutrition counseling in the context of HIV/AIDS. The ultimate goal of the training is to equip Mother to Mother Support group Facilitators on how to counsel PLHIV on Maternal, Infant and Young child feeding/MIYCF/ in the context of HIV. The current training package covers both infant feeding practice components and mother-to-mother support group activities. ENGINE has prioritized and agreed to consolidate the MSG training next quarter.

Monitor and report MIYCN counseling for mothers by trained HWs

As reported under the capacity building sections, ENGINE regional teams provided capacity building through coaching/mentoring and formal trainings. During joint supportive supervision, the team assessed HWs and HEWs routine nutrition service performance in their respective catchment areas. As a result of ENGINE's capacity building activities, HWs counseled 84089 mothers (55230 pregnant women and 28859 lactating mothers) on exclusive (EBF), complementary feeding (CF), and dietary diversity at HCs and HPs. Overall, the achievement is higher (84,089 /26,638) than the planned because it is demand driven and there is double counting of mothers. We have revised the annual and QIV targets taking in to consideration the increasing number of mothers counseled by the trained HWs and double counting of mothers when they come for repeat visits.

IR 2.2 Health and nutrition service seeking behaviors increased

Strategy 2.1.4: Develop the SBCC strategy as it relates to health-seeking behaviors (discussed in IR3.1 in detail)

Launch innovative mNutrition service to improve tools for health and agriculture workers

In Quarter III, ENGINE procured the required equipment and modems to run the new mNutrition service for HEWs and DAs. Prior to testing the system, an expert from the Manoff Group trained SBCC, IT and M&E ENGINE team members on how to set up and use the IVR software for the mNutrition. In addition, the preliminary menu options, nutrition information (for SMS text), and draft nutrition audio messages in English and Amharic, on the first 1000 days, were created. A detailed and comprehensive questionnaire prepared to test the mNutrition service in the four regions will be conducted in the next quarter..

Strategy 2.1.5: Mobilize communities to seek health/nutrition services

During the reporting period, ENGINE finalized the sub-grant agreement with three local non-governmental organizations (LNGOs) to implement its innovative ECC approach: 1) Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) for Eastern Oromia, 2) Fayya Integrated Development Organization (FIDO), and 3) Ethiopia Twehado Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOTC-DICAC) for Amhara, Tigray, and SNNPR. ENGINE conducted start-up workshop for these local NGOs to ensure understanding of project expectations from the LNGOs and how to expertly implement the ECC. All of three LNGOs have finalized their agreements with the regional governments and are in the process of recruiting Community Change Agents (CCAs).

The training of CCAs could not be conducted as planned because the finalization of the agreement with regional government and recruitment of CCAs took longer than anticipated. In addition the SBCC materials could not be printed because enough printing companies did not apply to the open bid. Next quarter, community implementation of ECC will be initiated and most the materials will be printed.

IR 2.3 Access to health and nutrition services increased

Strategy 2.1.6: Strengthening the referral system and access to essential supplies with maternal and child health services

Support referral linkages of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases

In the third quarter, 439 children with SAM cases were referred to HCs and hospitals in all four regions. This figure represents 102 percent (439/429) against the Quarter III target. The Tigray region reported approximately 50 percent of the SAM referral cases during this quarter.

Link nutrition with other programs

Over the past three months, the ENGINE regional teams continued to integrate the promotion of WASH behaviors into ongoing community level nutrition interventions including FCD events, community discussions, trainings, and review meetings to improve linkages with other sectors. All cooking demonstration participants learned about the importance of WASH at 444 FCD events. The FCD platform was also used to model and promote improved hygiene best practices in the areas of hand washing and sanitation. More than 41918 (30202 female) community members benefited from WASH interventions.

In addition, ENGINE provided livelihood inputs for 68 households with persons affected by HIV/AIDS (see section IR 3.2)

Support Child Health Days (CHD) implementation

During the reporting period, ENGINE continued to support CHD with provision of vitamin A and de-worming for children in ten target *woredas*. The number of children reached will be reported in the fourth quarter because this metric is reported annually.

IR 3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based practices improved

Planned activities:

- Analyze formative research data on maternal nutrition practices and barriers
- Package and disseminate formative research summaries into multi-format nutrition SBCC packages
- Redesign the 1000 Days radio magazine show
- Identify additional beneficiaries for LES support and continue support of existing households
- Establish and strengthen savings groups for most vulnerable households
- Support schools and FTCs in agronomic and cooking demonstrations
- Establish improved chicken multiplication interventions
- Monitor environmental compliance

IR 3.1 MIYCN knowledge and practices improved

In Quarter III, ENGINE revised its SBCC work plan to reflect the current implementation status of its new and innovative SBCC because the preparatory activities including finalizing the formative research and materials, procuring the media equipment, and contracting out to LNGOs took longer time than anticipated. The realistic time to complete SBCC related activities is clear at this stage and the revised work plan is incorporated in the work plan matrix.

Strategy 3.1.1: Develop SBCC strategy through powerful formative research

Analyze formative research to develop SBCC strategy

During Quarter III, ENGINE's revised SBCC strategy was also finalized using the findings from the formative researches in this quarter. It is shared to USAID with this report. The agriculture-nutrition formative research report will be finalized during the next quarter.

Strategy 3.1.2: Promote optimal nutrition practices through dynamic communication channels

Redesign the 1,000 Days radio magazine show

During the third quarter, ENGINE's SBCC team explored ways to redesign the existing radio magazine program. The team is currently in the process of refining the ideas and a developing design document using innovative and interactive radio formats and other processes to bring this plan to fruition. This activity was not given priority in Quarter III because priority was given to mNutrition and material development. The design document will be finalized in Quarter IV and aired in Year IV.

Support the rapid development of SBCC job aids for frontline workers

ENGINE did concept testing of different areas of its SBCC activities in Quarter II. In Quarter III, ENGINE finalized the data analysis of the large amount of data generated by the concept testing focusing on dietary diversity, 1000 days, gender, and maternal nutrition components.



Figure 3.1 ENGINE's SBCC team conducting concept testing with pregnant and lactating mothers, Bekoji, East Oromia

Based on the findings of the concept testing, ENGINE's dedicated its efforts to the development and in-house design of innovative nutrition SBCC materials for the ECC, which focus on the first 1000 days for MIYCN. Some of the materials produced include: positive role model testimony cards, interactive skills-building menu planning, earn-and-buy games, 1000 Day puzzle, couples role plays, IFA reminder calendar, and stickers. Next quarter, ENGINE will recruit a printing company for the mass production of these print and promotional SBCC materials, which will be used to roll out the ECCs.

IR 3.2: Increased access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sector linkage

Strategy 3.2.3: Apply economic strengthening activities in target geographical areas to address specific household vulnerabilities

Match economic opportunities with household interest and capabilities

In Quarter III, ENGINE provided TA in the areas of livestock management, vegetable production, and fruit production to 2501 households in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP Regions. As a result, the feeding, housing, and the health conditions of the animals provided has improved. Also, fruit seedling management during the dry season showed improvement due to the mulching efforts to retain water. ENGINE exceeded both the quarter and annual target because the households needed more technical assistance than anticipated. This projection was underestimated during the planning. The target for Quarter IV along with the annual metric is revised (see the revised work plan.) In addition, with the leadership of the *kebeles* and *wordeas* offices, ENGINE completed identification of all new MVHHs targeted for homestead and small livestock support in Year III.

Both the internal and external mid-term evaluations showed that ENGINE's livelihood support, especially homestead and poultry, increased household consumption of diversified food along with increasing income and the expenditure on food. However, it was noted that the coverage of the intervention was limited to two *kebeles* per *woredas* and only 10000 MVHs. The evaluation team

recommended scaling up the interventions to more *kebeles* and households. ENGINE would like to revise the target for homestead and poultry to cover more *kebeles* or MVHs in Quarter IV of Year III and Year IV, if this is acceptable to USAID.

Strengthen MVHHs saving groups and initiate saving

In Quarter III, ENGINE established 100 new, out of target of 138, saving groups, which is 72 percent of the quarter target. The under accomplishment is due to the dependence of the activity on interest from the targeted households. Of the 100 saving groups formed, 70 were linked to microfinance institutions (MFIs) or savings and credit associations. Some of the benefits that groups who have opened saving accounts with MFI include: accesses to loans to support business expansion, information on business planning, and advice on financial management.

Initiate regular group meetings to promote optimal vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, MIYCN and WASH behaviors

ENGINE conducted a series of group discussions to promote vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, and optimal MIYCN and WASH practices. A total of 945 community meetings (representing 39 percent of the semi-annual target of 2396) were conducted in the four regions. This target was not achieved because of the delay in the selection process for Year III MVHHs.

Savings groups conducted a series of group discussions to promote vegetable and livestock productivity, gender, and optimal MIYCN and WASH practices in addition to saving activity. A total 1113 meetings in all four regions were conducted in Quarter III, which is 93 percent (1113/1195) to the quarter target. This metric was underachieved in Quarter I and II, but there is a marked progress in the third quarter. Consequently, we have revised the Quarter IV and annual target to a more realistic figure.

Train MVHHs in LES inputs

During this reporting period, the LES team trained 1401 participants from Year II and III selected MVHHs in vegetable and fruit production, irrigation, water management and livestock management (feed preparation, forage production and animal health), and gender mainstreaming. The training will help the participants to utilize the support effectively and efficiently.

Marketing strategy for vegetables

ENGINE hasn't implemented its planned marketing activities because it was found out that most of the households consumed the vegetables and there is enough local market for the excess after ENGINE reduced the recommended plot size and amount and type of vegetable crops provided to households. ENGINE did a rapid assessment of marketing problems in 30 households, which showed marketing was not as such a major problem though some of the respondent indicated that the price of vegetable crops that they are receiving is below their expectations in the local markets. Detail analysis of the assessment will be reported in the upcoming quarter report. Based on the findings marketing activities will be re-planned for year four if there is a need.

Strategy 3.2.2: Facilitate community-based learning on agriculture techniques for increased production of diverse foods

Support schools in gardening, agronomic and cooking demonstrations

In Quarter III, ENGINE provided a variety of vegetable seeds to 37 schools in the four regions (Table 3.1), which reflects 84 percent of the annual target. In addition to material provision, the ENGINE team head office, regional team, and *woreda* agriculture office experts provided on-site TA to 117 schools during the reporting period. The technical support focused on vegetable production and management of fruit seedlings.

ENGINE also provided nutrition and school gardening training for the newly assigned 72 (18 female) teachers during the reporting period who replaced the previously trained teachers; resulting in a 106 percent achievement of the target for the third quarter. Since this is a gap-filling training to support the replacements of the trained teachers who left the schools, ENGINE conducts the training whenever need arises.

Table 3.1: Number of schools supported by regions

Region	Year III target	Quarter III		Quarter III % accomplishment	Annual % accomplishment to date
		Target	Achieved		
Amhara	44	0	0		91% achieved In QI&II
Oromia	69	40	29	73%	
SNNP	38	14	8	57%	
Tigray	16	0	0		100% achieved In QI&II
Total	167	54	37	69%	

ENGINE also organized agronomic practice and cooking demonstration events in schools in the four regions to promote dietary diversification and MIYCN to the wider communities in this quarter. As shown in Tables 3.2 & 3.3 below, a total of 3306 individuals attended agronomic practice sessions at 49 events and 6570 individuals attended cooking demonstrations at 43 events in schools that have access to irrigation. Achievement of targets to date is low due to the fact that demonstration events were conducted only in schools that have access to irrigation systems in the previous quarters. In turn, we have revised the targets for Quarter IV targets to realistic ones.

Table 3.2: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in schools

Region	Target				Achievements		Quarter III % accomplishment	
	Year III target		Quarter III target		Quarter III			
	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals
Amhara	33	5445	17	2723	13	2212	76%	81%
Oromia	52	8580	30	5578	20	512	67%	9%
SNNP	28	4620	8	1247	11	150	138%	12%
Tigray	12	1980	2	259	5	432	250%	167%
Total	125	20625	57	9807	49	3306	86%	34%

Table 3.3: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in schools

Region	Target				Achievements		Quarter III % accomplishment	
	Year III target		Quarter III target		Quarter III			
	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals
Amhara	33	5445	17	2723	13	2,212	76%	81%
Oromia	52	8580	26	4791	14	2703	54%	56%
SNNP	28	5400	8	1491	8	921	100%	62%
Tigray	12	1980	7	1478	8	734	114%	50%
Total	125	21405	58	10483	43	6570	74%	63%

Support FTCs in agronomic and cooking demonstration

During Quarter III, ENGINE supported a total of 52 FTCs with vegetable and fruit seeds (Table 3.4). In addition to the planting material provision, the ENGINE team, together with *woreda* agriculture office experts, provided on-site TA to 72 FTCs. The technical support focused on vegetable production and fruit seedling management. During planning, ENGINE underestimated the need for a second visit to FTCs. The annual targets are met, but there is a need to provide additional technical support to the FTCs next quarter. We have revised the target accordingly.

Table 3.4: Number of FTCs supported by regions

Region	Year III target	Quarter III target	Number of FTCs supported				Quarter III % accomplishment	Annual % accomplishment to date
			Quarter I	Quarter II	Quarter III	Total to date		
Tigray	12		11	1		12		100%
Amhara	32	18	5	9	16	30	89%	93%
Oromia	43	29	1	15	28	44	97%	102%
SNNP	28	5	3	25		28		100%
Total	115	37	20	50	44	114	129%	99%

In Quarter III, ENGINE also continued to organize agronomic practice and cooking demonstration events at FTCs in all four regions. A total of 3053 individuals attended 36 agronomic practice demonstration events and 1743 individuals attended 20 cooking demonstration events (Table 3.5 and 3.6). The agronomic demonstrations focused primarily on selecting and cultivating nutritious vegetables. The accomplishment of agronomic practices in terms of number of events was on track for the reporting period. However, the number of attendants for these events was lower than expected, especially in Oromia and SNNPR. This highlights the need to do more community mobilization in all regions before the events as well as holding additional demonstration events in SNNPR and Oromia to achieve the annual target in Quarter IV. We have revised the participants target for Quarter IV along with the annual metric. Overall, the cooking demonstrations were low both in terms of number of events and number of participants (30% of annual target). This target was revised.

Table 3.5: Number of individuals participating in agronomic practice demonstration events in FTCs

Region	Target				Achievements		Quarter III %	
	Year III target		Quarter III target		Quarter III		accomplishment	
	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals
Amhara	22	4400	6	1260	9	505	150%	40%
Oromia	34	6800	19	3820	18	1482	95%	39%
SNNP	21	4200	9	1395	3	205	33%	15%
Tigray	9	1800	1	720	6	861	600%	120%
Total	86	17200	29	7195	36	3053	124%	43%

Table 3.6: Number of individuals participating in cooking demonstration events in FTCs

Region	Target				Achievements		Quarter III % accomplishment	
	Year III target		Quarter III target		Quarter III			
	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals	# of events	# of individuals
Amhara	22	4200	7	1200	6	377	85%	32%
Oromia	34	6800	16	3000	3	374	19%	13%
SNNP	21	4400	6	1660	8	620	133%	37%
Tigray	9	1800	9	900	3	372	33%	32%
Total	86	17200	29	6760	20	1743	124%	45%

Support MVHHs in homestead production

In Quarter III, ENGINE provided 4396 MVHHs with vegetable seeds including cabbage, carrot, Swiss chard, Irish potato, sweet potato (orange and white flesh), pumpkin, green beans, and kale in the four regions (Table 3.7). As observed during field visits, MVHHs in Woliso *woreda* started benefiting from the sales of new born sheep and excess vegetable products. Among these MVHHs, eight of them purchased heifer and 90 of them purchased chicken to address their livelihood and nutritional needs. The regional team also used model HHs to demonstrate agronomic practices. In this quarter, 826 farmers attended the demonstration in 49 sessions in Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray Regions.

Table 3.7: Number of MVHHs provided with vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings by regions

Region	Year III target	Quarter III		Quarter III % accomplishment	Annual % accomplishment to date
		Target	Achieved		
Amhara	2526	1263	1451	115%	108%
Oromia	3794	2244	1617	72%	105%
SNNP	1895	332	334	101%	124%
Tigray	999	999	994	100%	100%
Total	9214	4838	4396	91%	109%

Designing a sustainable seed strategy for homestead vegetable

Based on the sustainable seed supply strategy developed in Quarter I, a preliminary assessment was undertaken during this reporting period to identify sustainable vegetable seed dealers in ten selected ENGINE operational *woredas*. The assessment report is expected to be finalized next quarter, specifically before the end of July 2014.

Support MVHHs with productive livestock

During the third quarter, ENGINE provided 2275 MVHHs with productive livestock (heifers, sheep, goats, and chicken) based on their interest and capacity (Table 3.9). This marks 83 percent of the Year III annual target.

In Year III, ENGINE increased the number of dairy heifer distributions to target HHs that have access to better feed reserves and possess the management capacity to raise cows. The growing dairy heifers support necessitates HHs' knowledge and skill development on improved dairy cattle management. Accordingly, ENGINE developed and distributed dairy cattle training manuals and facilitator's guides in Quarter III to standardize improved dairy cattle training provision to HHs receiving dairy cows.

Table 3.8: Number of MVHHs provided with productive livestock by regions

Region	Year III target	Quarter III		Quarter III % accomplishment
		Target	Achieved	
Amhara	1,320	500	611	122%
Oromia	2,641	1,378	1,216	88%
SNNP	1,148	448	355	102%
Tigray	520	-	93	-
Total	5,629	2,326	2,275	94%

During this reporting period, an unusually prolonged dry season was encountered in the Wabe Burkitu kebele of Arsi Zone. As a result, the death of livestock (mainly sheep and cattle) escalated. In response, ENGINE, in collaboration with *woreda* animal health workers, provided strategic treatment against parasitic infestations and microbial diseases. Sheep and goats in 41 households supported by ENGINE received the strategic treatment service.

Improve chicken supply model

During this quarter, in partnership with a public owned Kombolcha Poultry Resource Development Enterprise in Amhara, ENGINE has also distributed 3,366 improved chicken breed known as Koekoek for 198 MVHHs in 13 *Woredas*. Koekoek were most appreciated for their resistance to transportation stress, disease pressure, response to treatment, fast body weight gain and feather color were among the most preferred breed characters mentioned. All the chicken received vaccines appropriate to their age and knowledge and skill development training for the households was done too.

In order to address locally adaptable improved chicken market supply inadequacy, ENGINE facilitated public-private partnerships between public research centers and small-scale private chicken producers to improve the chicken supply chain. In this effort, ENGINE partnered with Debre-Zeit Agricultural Research Center (DZARC) to access parent stock of the desired chicken breed and link with private growers, who will be the source of two month old chickens to ENGINE supported households. In Quarter III, ENGINE paid the chicken price and the five months rearing cost to the center. The mini-hatchery procurement process was also finalized. A potential supplier was identified and a procurement award was provided to the selected supplier. In addition, a quadripartite agreement among the *woreda* line office, the selected private chicken producers, and ENGINE was signed during this reporting period. During Quarter IV, selected private chicken producers will be receiving improved chicken and hatchery management training.

Additionally in Quarter III, ENGINE received reports of chicken deaths from *woredas* in Amhara Region. The respective *woredas* requested support from Bahir Dar Regional Vet Laboratory through ENGINE to conduct a disease investigation. The lab agreed and subsequently collected chicken samples from both ENGINE and non-ENGINE. The lab results indicated that chickens in these *woredas* were infected with Salmonellosis, a common disease for chickens. ENGINE has responded

to this confirmation of Salmonellosis by conducting regular chicken vaccinations, as well as deworming of chickens in both sample *woredas* and *woredas* receiving chicken in this fiscal year.

Secure additional funding for cost share

In Quarter III, ENGINE activities were visited by different Save the Children private donors. They appreciated ENGINE's work to empower women and most vulnerable households. Two private donors pledged to scale up this work to more beneficiaries and support the existing next livestock ladder to ensure their household food security. Athene/Gaming for Good provided 201,178 USD and Mr. Gordon donated 150,000 USD as a cost share to the project.

Support agricultural research on nutrition

In Quarter II, ENGINE as an effort to support federal and regional agricultural research institutes involved in nutrition-sensitive areas of research, invited the research institutes to submit both technical and financial proposals to conduct nutrition sensitive agricultural research or to promote nutrition sensitive agricultural research outcomes to the communities. The suggested deadline for submitting proposals took place in Quarter III (April 21, 2014). However, none of the research institutes have responded to our invitation to date. Therefore, this activity will be reprogrammed during the next quarter and the budget can be utilized for other activities in the upcoming program year.

Livelihood effectiveness study

In order to ascertain the extent to which ENGINE intervention packages contribute to consumption and expenditures of products produced by the household and to assess the effectiveness of the various livelihoods packages delivered to beneficiaries, ENGINE partner LOL conducted a livelihood effectiveness study in selected project-supported in Quarter II. The draft report produced by LOL was not acceptable to ENGINE in terms of the overall content of the report as well as the data quality and analysis. Detail comments provided to LOL. It expected to be finalized next quarter.

IR4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

Planned activities:

- Implement Operational Research (OR)
- Build capacity of MSc students in nutrition
- Establish PhD program in nutrition
- Implement project M&E system and database
- Conduct data quality assessments at health facilities
- Assist in evidence-based health sector planning

IR 4.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Strategy 4.1.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Birth cohort study

This study aims to find out the effectiveness of direct and indirect interventions targeting maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes. During the third quarter, data collection activities maintained strong progress in the three study *woredas* (Woliso, Gomma and Tiro Afeta). Since the initiation of the data collection in March 2014, the total number of pregnant women recruited is 1748 (409 of the women have delivered and 388 mother-infant pairs are being followed); achieving 37 percent of the total 4680 sample size. During this reporting period, three supportive supervisions were conducted at the study sites; providing technical and administrative support to data collectors and supervisors.

Agriculture-nutrition survey panel

This study examines the role of ENGINE in affecting nutrition, food security, and livelihoods outcomes through its integrated programming. At the beginning of Quarter III, the first round of the Agriculture-Nutrition survey (the post-harvest) was finalized. Data was collected from 1200 households and data cleaning and preliminary analysis of the collected data was conducted. The preliminary findings of the post-harvest especially the descriptive, project participation, nutrition knowledge, agricultural practices, and themes of ENGINE direct livelihood supported households were used as input for the internal mid-term evaluation. Next quarter, the preparatory phase for the second round of data collection of the Agriculture-nutrition survey (pre-harvest season) will be launched in mid-September 2014.

Nutrition policy research

During this quarter, the nutrition policy research report entitled “*An examination of the dynamics of nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia: Facilitators and Constraints at National and Sub-national level*” was finalized. The report analyzes how a range of policies and programs get translated from the design phase (on paper) to the implementation phase (in practice) and looks at multi-sector coordination at all levels. On June 4, 2014, the findings of the overall nutrition policy research were orally presented at the Micronutrient Forum Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the presentation was well received. The manuscript for publication will be ready in Quarter IV.

Secondary data analysis research

During this reporting period, ENGINE with partners, Jimma and Hawassa University researchers, completed data analyses of four individual studies. In addition, Jimma researchers wrote draft reports for trends and variability of wasting and underweight in under five children and predictors of household dietary diversity. Next quarter, the researchers will finalize the reports and submit for publication.

Research capacity building

ENGINE continued research capacity building of local universities and research institutes. This quarter, ENGINE approved eight MSc thesis proposals from Gondar University in their thesis investigative research on food security, micronutrient, determinants of undernutrition, and related areas. To date, ENGINE has supported 56 students from five government Universities. In this reporting period, ENGINE prepared/extracted summaries of 22 completed thesis findings to print and disseminate in a workshop to be held in Quarter IV.

During the third quarter, the seven PhD students continued coursework in Nutritional Assessment, Nutritional Epidemiology, and Part I of Advanced and Customized Biostatistics for PhD students at Jimma University. Three out of the seven PhD students also participated in the data collection of both cohort studies. One of the challenges presented was to get a PhD promoter for four PhD students. In Quarter III, a professor from Ghent University agreed to become an advisor for the four students.

MAM and SAM Operational Research (OR) studies

Both the MAM and SAM OR studies have continued in the third quarter under the SCI-JU agreement. During this reporting period, VI re-started its international STTA support for these studies as the sub-contract was finalized in this quarter. ENGINE and Jimma University continued implementing the two ORs and conducted four rounds of supportive supervision trips to study sites to ensure quality data collection.

Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

The purpose of the MAM OR is to provide evidence for whether there is a need for a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) in food-secure settings of rural Ethiopia. The study began in August 2013 in Dedo and Mana of Jimma zone, Oromia region where 927 moderately acutely malnourished children aged six to 59 months were enrolled to be followed for seven months. In this quarter, follow up data collection for 918 children was completed for both *woredas*. Data cleaning and entry have been started and will be completed next quarter. It is also planned to produce draft preliminary report in Quarter IV.

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

The objective of the SAM OR is to determine the long-term health outcomes of children age six to 59 months successfully treated for SAM in a community-based management (CBM) program and compare with a control group of children under five in the same community. The required sample size is 237 cases and 237 controls for this study. During this reporting period, 64 children (32 cases and 32 controls) were enrolled into the study, making a total of 180 cases and 180 controls. This is equivalent of 76 percent of children (planned to be enrolled during the entire length of the study), which should have been 100% by June. This underachievement is attributed to the slow rate of discharge of SAM children as “cured” from health facilities and very high dropout rate at the OTP centers.

IR 4.2: Develop and manage an innovative documentation and dissemination strategy

Baseline Survey

During this reporting period, the ENGINE team reviewed the final baseline report submitted at the end of last quarter by VI. In this quarter, the baseline survey results were shared with ENGINE regional offices in a format that can be presented to the stakeholders at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels. The results were also presented and shared with USAID. The dissemination of the results to all regions will be conducted in Quarter IV. In addition, the survey report was used as source of data for the internal and external mid-term evaluations.

Mid-term evaluation

In this quarter, ENGINE successfully completed an internal mid-term evaluation as planned except the livelihood effectiveness study where ENGINE has issues with the report (explained in IR 3.2.). A draft report of the internal evaluation was finalized and shared to the external evaluators. ENGINE also provided all the necessary information, support, and feedback to USAID's external mid-term evaluators. Both evaluations were amazed by the performance of the project and concluded that ENGINE is on track on the most part of its components. They also recommended where the project should improve or speed up its implementation. These areas are as follows: SBCC, WASH, and knowledge management and sharing. ENGINE plans to address most of these recommendations during Year IV and V at the planning workshop that will be held next quarter. The final report of the internal evaluation will be finalized in Quarter IV.

Woreda level planning and review meetings

ENGINE, in collaboration with *woreda*, zonal desk, and regional bureau health and agricultural offices, supported and facilitated performance review meetings in 27 out of 51 *woredas* planned for the quarter. These meetings were integrated with regular *woreda* level meetings. ENGINE presented project overviews, project performance, and initiated discussion among the participants of the meetings. The ultimate goal of these meetings is to generate lessons learned and identify gaps in the project implementation to improve overall project performance. Some of the topics discussed included: reviewing the performance and quality of health; nutrition and LES activities; joint supportive supervision findings and the way forward; multisectoral coordination; and availability of nutrition commodities (micronutrient supplies). The *woredas* also crafted action plans in response to gaps identified during the meeting.

Cross cutting activities:

Gender

Planned activities for this quarter:

- Conduct gender awareness/sensitization training for ENGINE regional staff
- Distribute the gender mainstreaming guidelines

Gender is a crosscutting element of the ENGINE project. Infusing gender-sensitive approaches into ENGINE's overall SBBC strategy and nutrition and livelihoods activities is critical to addressing issues related to underlying gender norms and dynamics affecting nutrition-related decisions in the household.

Conduct gender awareness training for ENGINE regional staff

During Quarter III, ENGINE organized a gender awareness training for its regional staff to promote sensitivity around gender and enable the mainstreaming of gender into project activities. A total of 74 (seven female) ENGINE staff from the four regions (six from Tigray, 16 from East Oromiya, 16 from West Oromiya, 18 from SNNPR, and 18 from Amhara) participated in the training. The major topics addressed in the training were: gender and sex concepts; definition of gender roles, gender based division of labor and its relation with nutrition; gender analysis and its importance; male engagement; how to mainstream gender in ENGINE implementation; and orientation on the gender mainstreaming supportive supervision checklist.

Integration of WASH into nutrition

Planned activities for this quarter:

- Support WASH implementation at facility level
- Complete WASH observational assessment report
- Develop WASH SBCC strategy and detailed plan for WASH integration

Support WASH implementation at facility level

At the facility level, WASH was integrated with Integrated Community-based Case Management (iCCM) and 24753 children suffering from diarrhea were treated with zinc and oral rehydration salts (ORS).

Conduct WASH observational assessments

During this reporting period, ENGINE completed data analysis of WASH observational assessment and produced the final report (see Annex I). Almost all households were found to have poor access to clean and safe child-friendly play environments as well as poor access to improved water supply and sanitation, which were compounded by poor hygienic practices. The findings and recommendations of the assessment were used to design ENGINE's WASH implementation and SBCC strategy to support rapid implementation of WASH.

Develop WASH SBCC strategy and detailed plan for WASH integration

In Quarter III, in collaboration with the regional team and SCUS WASH technical advisor, ENGINE prepared detail implementation plan for WASH for June to September 2014. The plan is reflected in this revised work plan matrix. ENGINE will promote locally available mats, promote clean environment, assist households in constructing an extra room for livestock, conduct willingness to pay assessment, and provide water filters to households with children six to 24 months.

Challenges and constraints and plans to overcome them during the reporting period

IR 1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

Nutrition multi-sector coordination

Main challenges and constraints

The extension state minister of Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has created a nutrition case team, which is a sign of strong progress. However, the coordination of nutrition work among the four state ministers under MOA remains a challenge.

Although the NNP was launched in all regions and the regional nutrition coordination and technical committees were established in the four big regions where ENGINE operates, these coordination bodies are not fully operational and capacity to mainstream nutrition is also an issue.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

ENGINE with other partners mainly FAO and UNICEF has encouraged the MOA food and nutrition case team and DRMFS focal person for nutrition to work together. A TOR to establish a nutrition working group under MOA was prepared to coordinate the ministry nutrition activities. At the request of the nutrition case team of MOA; ENGINE, UNICEF, and FAO prepared a draft plan of action how to support the case team, improve the coordination, and mainstream NNP in MOA. It is current under review by MOA.

ENGINE in partnership with CIAFS trained decision makers or directorates from federal and regional agricultures offices in leadership for food security and nutrition security in order to create awareness and influence decisions.

ENGINE in partnership with UNICEF supported capacity building for NNTC members from the nine ministries to empower them with the skills and knowledge to actively mainstream NNP in their sectoral activities and effectively coordinate their sectoral nutrition work. A draft plan was prepared and submitted to FMOH for regional capacity building for NNTC and NNCB members so that the regional coordination will be operationalized and the momentum from launching NNP will be maintained.

IR 2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health services improved

Assessment of the quality of nutrition services at health centers and health posts

Main challenges and constraints

Lack of micronutrients (especially IFA) has been observed in most of the health facilities in Oromia and SNNPR.

The *woreda* agriculture and health office heads/deputies are inaccessible for program managers training. Since these positions are highly engaged in other cabinet tasks, bringing them together for the training has been a difficult task for regional team.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

The national and regional ENGINE team teams have been continuously informing the regions and FMOH about the supply status. The supply shortage for zinc has already been addressed as IFA, FMOH and partners have already received shipments and the distribution is expected to start in mid July 2014.

ENGINE will work with respective *woredas* to facilitate the training.

IR3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based nutrition practices

Finalize formative research findings and launch enhanced community conversations

Main challenges and constraints

In the second quarter, ENGINE submitted proposals and prepared a presentation to discuss the feasibility of mNutrition with Ethio Telecom's technical team. As the technology and topology for mNutrition described in the proposal was not consistent with the Ethio Telecom network system. Subsequently, Ethio Telecom submitted a proposal to ENGINE with their suggestions and a topology using landlines and fibre optic cabling, which would require a lengthy installation process, taking over two months to complete. It also took longer than expected to select LNGOs as the sub-grantees for ENGINE. Over 50 LNGOs responded to the initial RFP. Reviewing technical proposals, short-listing viable LNGOs, and the final evaluation process based on detailed selection criteria was time-consuming. In addition to this, finalizing the MOU with local governments took longer than expected.

In addition to finalizing the formative research findings, ENGINE conducted concept testing in four regions to test some of the innovative approaches outlined in the recommendations of the report. Refining the ideas and designing the graphics to be tested, including performing the concept testing to determine which concepts would work best for each of the target groups was a time consuming venture. This process ultimately contributed to further delays in Quarter III.

ENGINE released a bid for printing of its SBCC materials but we couldn't get enough applicants to provide the services, which has delayed the implementation of its innovative and new SBCC activities

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

During this quarter, in an effort to minimize installation time and processes, ENGINE decided to take a leap of faith and try out the mNutrition service by purchasing a GSM gateway and modems that would fast-track the service and train staff. This was done in an effort to minimize further delays and test the system to determine the quality and feasibility of the service, which proved to be time consuming

Additionally, ENIGNE's SBCC team finalized development of concepts and performed concept testing in four regions. ENGINE used the results of the concept testing to fast track development of multi-media SBCC materials.

A new closed bid for the print production of the SBCC materials will be released to companies with a strong track record and willingness to participate. The identification of the printing companies will be finalized during the next quarter.

Disease and pest

Main challenges and constraints

A total of 26 deaths of sheep occurred in East Oromiya, West Arsi especially in Wabe Burkitu woreda due to prolonged drought.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

By coordinating with the woreda livestock agency and disaster prevention and preparedness desk, the regional team managed to deliver curative veterinary services and feed for existing animals. In the long term, the regional team will ensure they are aware of changes to the environmental situation. Thus, the prevailing risk indicators as part of “Early Warning System” would be noticed early and appropriate measures can be taken prior to encountering the problem. As a result, ENGINE’s nutrition advisor has started to participate the Emergency Task Force (ETF) meeting organized by USAID to predict in advance and prepare for timely response.

IR 4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

Birth cohort study

Main challenges and constraints

Some officials in Tiro Afeta challenged the data collection team. They attempted to interfere in the recruitment and administration of field guides, including the data collection procedures.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

The local Co-PI and study lead (Jimma University) immediately addressed and resolved the issue by travelling and discussing the study with the relevant officials.

ENGINE Capacity Building – PhD studies

Main challenges and constraints

Matching of PhD students with PhD advisors at Ghent University has taken an unforeseen amount of time. Current internal policies of Ghent University restrict the number of students Professors can advise.

Tufts underestimated the PhD cost per student in the original budget. Under ENGINE’s current PhD program arrangement, which is the most inexpensive and feasible way to undertake a PhD, we know the actual cost per student.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

ENGINE has followed up with Jimma University graduate school management on a periodic basis and a new Professor is willing to be the PhD advisor for the students who still do not have a PhD advisor.

ENGINE has revised the budget to accommodate this adjustment. This budget realignment is pending the approval of USAID. ENGINE will submit the request in Quarter IV as the budget implications will occur in Year IV and V.

MAM

Main challenges and constraints

Slow rate of discharge of SAM children as “cured” from the OTP at health facilities. This has prolonged the data collection period.

Plans to overcome challenges and constraints

JU has planned to strengthen the supportive supervision activities in the study *woredas* to help the care providers improve service quality at the OTPs. It is thought that by improving service quality the discharge rate of cured children will improve. JU is also considering extending the SAM study participant recruitment period until the minimum sample size (190 cases and 190 control) is met.

Data quality issues during the reporting period

In Quarter III, ENGINE continued providing the regular onsite mentoring and supportive supervision on recording, reporting, data utilization and data quality at service delivery points (school, FTCs, health centers and health posts) as well as higher reporting levels based on the existing government systems through its regional M&E officers and Zonal coordinators. However, the central M&E team was unable to conduct regional data quality checks in Quarter III because of competing priorities. Given the priority of both the internal and external mid-term review, the central M&E team provided remote technical support and monitoring via telephone and e-mail during this reporting period. Consequently, the M&E team will conduct a comprehensive data quality assessment in Quarter IV.

Major activities planned in the next reporting period

Project management

- Conduct multi-sectoral annual review meeting
- Hold quarterly review regional and subprime meetings
- Support regions in launching activities in non-AGP
- Strengthen FtF linkages and conduct experience sharing visits with partners at the regional level

IR1. Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies strengthened

- Support national, regional and *woreda* level nutrition multi-sector establishment and coordination mechanisms for NNCB and NNTC
- Continue to support national food fortification, micronutrient survey, and universal salt iodization
- Provide TA to FMOH in finalizing revised harmonized nutrition training materials and nutrition guidelines
- Strengthen nutrition education through SBM-R
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of pre-service education strengthening activities

IR2. Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

- Carry out QI activities for nutrition services at remaining health facilities
- Deliver training on coaching/mentoring for health service providers
- Support quarterly joint integrated nutrition integrated supportive supervision with health offices
- Provide multi-sector nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training for program managers and frontline health and agriculture workers
- Finalize training manuals and job aids for LNGOS and CCAs on how to conduct ECCs and use nutrition SBCC materials.
- Conduct Training of Trainers (TOT) to train NGO trainers and supervisors of Community Change Agents (CCAs)
- Cascade the training to CCAs on how to conduct ECCs
- Support *woreda* level community health day (CHD) implementation through planning, logistics management, mentorship and post CHD monitoring and reviews

IR3. Improved Prevention of under-nutrition through community-based nutrition practices

- Finalize SBCC strategy and fast-track development of SBCC materials for HEWs/AEWs
- Translate SBCC training manuals, job aides and multi-media SBCC materials into three local languages
- Mass production and printing of interactive SBCC materials, including promotional materials and games.
- Test the mNutrition interactive voice response (IVR) and SMS service
- Provide fruit seedlings to schools, FTCs and MVHHs
- Conduct demonstration events in schools, FTCs and MVHHs
- Conduct experience sharing visits in best performing schools and FTCs
- Purchase livestock for the remaining MVHH and PEPFAR beneficiaries

IR4 Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted

- Continue implementation of ENGINE OR on birth cohort, agriculture-nutrition panel, SAM and MAM studies
- Continue secondary data analysis and documentation
- Provide nutrition M&E training for *woreda* agricultural and health offices and facilities (including data presentation and utilization)
- Carry out data quality assessment and supportive supervision for M&E officers in all regions

- Build research capacity for researchers and postgraduate students (MSc & PhD) in ENGINE partner institutes
- Organize annual planning and review meeting workshop

Cross cutting

- Continue on-going provision integrated supportive supervision to regions
- Participate in existing gender working groups, ensuring mainstreaming of gender in nutrition programming
- Document and disseminate gender sensitive success stories
- Assist with construction of extra room for livestock and improved coop for chickens.
- Distribute and promote the use of clean mats for children 0-to-24 months.
- Conduct rapid assessment on willingness to pay for WASH hardware (household water filters, floor mat and construction of separate room for livestock).

Environmental compliance

Animal feed and feeding: ENGINE has continued purchasing animals from the local market to avoid additional pressure on the existing pasture. In addition, 1,246 MVHHs received training and planted multipurpose forage trees in their backyard boundaries.

Animal Health: In order to protect distributed animals from rampant livestock diseases and maximize their productivity, 14,057 animals received vaccination against Anthrax, Black leg, Pastureullosis, PPR, and Pox, according to type of animal and area prevalence.

Table 3.10: Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring

Activity description	Mitigation measures	Monitoring Indicator(s)	Output	Comment
			# of people trained	
Provide selected VHHS and women's groups with livestock and seedlings for production of fruits and vegetables	Provide training of feed preparation, forage production, livestock management and veterinary services	# of people trained on feed and livestock management	1246	1246 HHs received training on forage production and feed reserve
	Provide required vaccinations for livestock	# of animals vaccinated	14057	During the reporting period, 14,057 animals have been vaccinated. All animals received a thorough animal health examination by a government veterinary officer.

Issues requiring the attention of USAID management

Tufts underestimated the PhD cost per student in the original budget. Under ENGINE's current PhD program arrangement, which is the most inexpensive and feasible way to undertake a PhD, we know the actual cost per student. Since this cost is higher than what was originally budgeted, ENGINE has revised the budget to accommodate this adjustment. This budget realignment is pending the approval of USAID. ENGINE will submit the request in Quarter IV as the budget implications will occur in Year IV and V.

Data sharing with host government

Have you shared this report with the host government?

Yes ☐

No ☒

We plan to share the annual report with the host government with the annual performance review meeting.

Annexes

Annex I: WASH report

Annex II: Revised SBCC strategy

Annex III: Trip reports and Meeting Minutes

Annex IV: Work plan and Performance Matrix
